



# CONGRESSMAN JIM SENSENBRENNER NEWS FROM CONGRESS

NUMBER 157 -- JANUARY 2002

## The USA-PATRIOT Act

On September 24, 2001, as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, I welcomed United States Attorney General John Ashcroft to a hearing to discuss our nation's response to the criminal act of war that took place on Tuesday, September 11. That was the day America changed as thousands of lives were taken from us. We watched in horror as terrorists attacked us without provocation. We watched as they attacked the heart and soul of America by targeting institutions that protect our freedoms and vitalize our economy.



*President Bush  
thanking  
Congressman  
Sensenbrenner  
for his work  
on the  
USA-PATRIOT Act.*

I visited the sites and met many people whose lives were tragically altered by these events. I went to where the World Trade Center once stood in New York City, and met with families and firefighters who continued to hope that they might find survivors of this attack. I saw the rubble and ruins of what was once a symbol of America's strong work ethic. I hope that no one ever again will have to visit a site like that.

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## Major Bills Passed by the House... ...That are Pending in the Senate

In the past few months, Representatives, Senators, and the Bush Administration have continued to work together to put our nation back on track after the events of September 11. Since that day, Congress has passed a bill to provide the President with funds to respond to the terrorist attacks, a joint resolution authorizing the use of U.S. Armed Forces against those responsible for the attacks, as well as a bill to help the airline industry get back on its feet. All these bills have been signed into law.

However, there have been many important bills - pre and post September 11 - passed by the House that have languished in the Senate. You may have received the June 2001 Newsletter which included an article on the status of bills that had gone through the House Judiciary Committee. Since then, the House, and the Judiciary Committee, have worked on several additional bills that significantly impact everyone. To the left is an article describing the USA-PATRIOT Act. Here are a few others:

**H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) Act,** introduced July 27, 2001.

After eight years without a coherent energy policy, the House voted on August 2, 2001, for a comprehensive energy plan to increase conservation and production while protecting the environment. H.R. 4 is the legislative portion of the President's comprehensive energy policy, and includes provisions on

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**REMINDER...**

**OFFICE HOURS &  
TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

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## The USA-PATRIOT Act

On Friday, October 26, 2001, the President signed HR 3162, the USA-PATRIOT Act, into law. This measure, known as Public Law 107-56, enhances the authority of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to gather information about terrorists in order to safeguard our nation. It updates various investigative authorities in recognition of the new technologies and tactics utilized by sophisticated terrorist organizations.

P.L 107-56 streamlines how law enforcement agencies obtain court orders, allowing them to act more quickly to address any terrorist threat. For example, prior to this law, the FBI was required to obtain a separate court order for every phone used by a terrorist. Knowing this, terrorists would often switch cell phones - making it almost impossible to intercept their communications. This legislation allows the government to obtain one court order to intercept communications of a terrorist without the requirement of obtaining a separate court order for every phone a terrorist might use.



*Congressman Sensenbrenner's visit to "Ground Zero" in preparation for his work on the USA-PATRIOT Act.*

In addition, federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies now will share national security information gathered as part of a criminal investigation so that intelligence, immigration, law enforcement, and national defense agencies have access to the information needed to address terrorist threats. Federal law will no longer prevent government agencies from sharing important national security information with other appropriate agencies.

The USA-PATRIOT Act also strengthens and enhances safeguards to prevent the unauthorized use or disclosure

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## Major Bills Passed by the House... ...That are Pending in the Senate

conservation, environmental regulations, alternative energy sources, and increasing production. **It is currently pending action in the Senate.**

**H.R. 7, the Charitable Choice Act of 2001**, introduced March 29, 2001.

This bill allows religious groups such as churches, synagogues, temples, etc., to apply for federal funds to run programs that help the needy. Because some people were concerned about mixing religion and government, or didn't want to see the federal government finance any one religion over another, I was pleased to play a pivotal role as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee in improving this legislation and making sure it was constitutionally sound. The bill passed by the Judiciary Committee was a fair compromise, and on July 19, 2001, it passed the House. **It is currently pending action in the Senate.**

**H.R. 169, the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2001 (No FEAR)**, introduced January 3, 2001.

The Judiciary Committee and the House passed this bill aimed at cracking down on discrimination and intolerance in federal agencies. It passed the House on October 2, 2001, and **is currently pending action in the Senate.**

**H.R. 2505, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001**, introduced July 16, 2001.

This bill bans human cloning by prohibiting the experimental scientific techniques used to create the infamous sheep Dolly from being used to create human embryos. H.R. 2505 does not prohibit the use of cloning technology for such ethically acceptable procedures as cloning insulin genes for the treatment of diabetes, or cloning cells to study cancer or other genetic diseases. After the mark-up by the Judiciary Committee, the House passed it on July 31, 2001, and **it is currently pending action in the Senate.**

**H.R. 3210, Terrorism Risk Protection Act**, introduced November 1, 2001.

Since September 11, insurance companies have become concerned about providing insurance coverage for acts of terrorism without government assistance. Businesses such as construction companies have been worried about losing terrorism coverage, as this would impair their ability to obtain credit. Since most policies end on December 31, many cancellation notices have been sent out. H.R. 3210 was introduced to back insurers with government funds and ensure that terrorism insurance remains affordable. To minimize the potential for lawsuit abuse, the Judiciary Committee weighed in on the bill and included provisions that would limit frivolous and expensive lawsuits at taxpayer expense. H.R. 3210 passed the House on

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# TOWN HALL MEETINGS

## Monday, January 14

7:00 p.m. West Bend City Hall

## Tuesday, January 15

7:00 p.m. Menomonee Falls Village Hall

## Saturday, January 26

9:00 a.m. Pewaukee City Hall

1:00 p.m. Hartford City Hall

## Sunday, January 27

7:00 p.m. Brookfield Safety Building

## Saturday, February 9

9:00 a.m. Horicon City Hall

1:00 p.m. Delafield City Hall

## Sunday, February 10

1:00 p.m. Grafton Village Hall

## Saturday, March 2

9:00 a.m. Watertown City Hall

1:00 p.m. Mayville Senior Center

## Sunday, March 3

12:00 p.m. Elm Grove Village Hall

# OFFICE HOURS

## Monday, January 14

8:30 a.m. Johnson Creek Village Hall

9:15 a.m. Hellenville Firehall

10:00 a.m. Sullivan Village Hall

11:00 a.m. Wales Village Hall

12:30 p.m. Genesee Town Hall

1:15 p.m. North Prairie Village Hall

2:00 p.m. Eagle Village Hall

2:45 p.m. Palmyra Village Hall

3:45 p.m. Dousman Village Hall

## Tuesday, January 15

8:00 a.m. Burnett Town Hall

8:45 a.m. Waupun City Hall

9:30 a.m. Brownsville Village Hall

10:15 a.m. Kekoskee Village Hall

11:00 a.m. Lomira Village Hall

12:30 p.m. Theresa Village Hall

1:15 p.m. Kewaskum Village Hall

2:15 p.m. Addison Town Hall

3:00 p.m. Rubicon Town Hall

3:45 p.m. Ashippun Town Hall

## Wednesday, January 16

8:00 a.m. Nashotah Village Hall

8:45 a.m. Merton Village Hall

9:30 a.m. Pewaukee Village Hall

10:15 a.m. Sussex Village Hall

11:00 a.m. Butler Village Hall

11:45 a.m. Lannon Village Hall

## Friday, January 25

8:30 a.m. Ixonia Town Hall

9:15 a.m. Lebanon Town Hall

10:00 a.m. Neosho Village Hall

10:45 a.m. Iron Ridge Village Hall

11:30 a.m. Hustisford Village Hall

1:00 p.m. Clyman Village Hall

1:45 p.m. Lowell Village Hall

2:30 p.m. Reeseville Village Hall

3:15 p.m. Waterloo City Hall

## Monday, January 28

8:30 a.m. Howard's Grove Village Hall

9:15 a.m. Kohler Village Hall

10:00 a.m. Oostburg State Bank

10:45 a.m. Adell Senior Center

11:30 a.m. Random Lake Village Hall

1:00 p.m. Cedar Grove Library

1:45 p.m. Belgium Village Hall

2:30 p.m. Fredonia Village Hall

3:15 p.m. Saukville Village Hall

## Monday, February 11

8:30 a.m. Slinger Village Hall

9:15 a.m. Jackson Village Hall

10:00 a.m. Newburg Village Hall

*Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours provide me the chance to hear your views on the issues before Congress or to help you with problems you may be experiencing in dealing with a federal agency. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting nearest your home. Please contact my district office if you require special accommodations to attend.*

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## The USA-PATRIOT Act

of sensitive information. It designates one person within the Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General to review and monitor alleged violations of civil rights and liberties. A key component of this legislation is the "sunset" provision, which states that certain authorities allowed by this new law will expire in four years. However, Congress can review and extend them beyond four years.

Congress approved this landmark legislation with solid bipartisan majorities. It was negotiated, drafted, and debated under difficult circumstances. This has been the most challenging project I have worked on in my twenty-three years as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. All Americans should be proud and heartened that our democratic institutions continue to work and flourish in spite of our determined enemies. Most importantly, the new powers in this legislation will help law enforcement go on the offensive against terrorists, and help fortify our unparalleled commitment to a free, safe, and secure people.

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## Major Bills Passed by the House...

### ...That are Pending in the Senate

November 29, 2001, and as of the time this was written, **is currently pending action in the Senate.**

**H.R. 3529, the Economic Security and Worker Assistance Act of 2001**, introduced December 19, 2001.

On December 20, in light of the events of September 11, the House passed this bill to provide tax incentives and other unemployment assistance to encourage economic growth. As of the time this was written, **it is currently pending action in the Senate.**

**Please note:** If you would like detailed information on any of the bills listed here, you can access my website at: [www.house.gov/sensenbrenner](http://www.house.gov/sensenbrenner), click on the "Legislation" box, and select the Thomas link which is located under the bold heading **What's Happening in Congress.**

## Mail and Flags Update

### MAIL:

Mail delivery to the U.S. House of Representatives, including to my Washington, D.C. office, was suspended after October 12, 2001, due to the receipt of anthrax-laced letters by Members of Congress, and the contamination of mail handling facilities around the country.

For over two months, mail to Members of Congress was held in a facility in Ohio for inspection and sanitation by law enforcement authorities. This mail, along with all new correspondence being sent to Congress, is being irradiated to kill any anthrax or other bacteria, and is undergoing several other procedures to ensure the safety of Postal Service employees, congressional staff, and Members of Congress. These added safety procedures, and the backlog of mail held since October 12, continue to delay your letters. In fact, it is expected that mail sent to Congress will now take at least an extra ten days to be processed before delivery to the office. At this time, the only mail being delivered is first class mail. Furthermore, much of the old correspondence is being treated as evidence from a crime scene and will be held indefinitely by the FBI. It is not clear when, if at all, that mail will be made available to Members of Congress.

*To write about issues  
or request publications,  
contact me at:*

**2332 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5101**

*To get help with  
federal agencies,  
contact me at:*

**120 Bishops Way, #154  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(262) 784-1111**

**Outside Metro Calling Area: 1-800-242-1119  
E-Mail: [sensen09@mail.house.gov](mailto:sensen09@mail.house.gov)  
<http://www.house.gov/sensenbrenner/>**

I apologize if you have written and have not yet received a reply. Although Members of Congress are starting to receive mail, while the authorities still continue to determine how best to handle mail, it might be more effective for you to contact me via phone or e-mail. For your convenience, the appropriate information can be found on this page.

### FLAGS:

As many of you know, I have a long tradition of providing flags flown over the US Capitol at cost to constituents in the Ninth District. However, since September 11, demand for flags has been overwhelming. Consequently, my personal office supply of flags, as well as those sold by the House Office Supply Store, has been completely depleted. In fact, the House Office Supply Store currently has over 50,000 flag orders that cannot be filled because the flags are on back order. Since the Supply Store only purchases flags made in the U.S., this means that it could be six to twelve months before new orders from constituents can be processed.

I apologize for this inconvenience, and ask that you continue to remain patient while the Supply Store awaits additional flag shipments. Please feel free to visit my website which will be updated as soon as more information becomes available. Once the Supply Store has more flags, a press release will be issued, and a flag order form will be made available on the website. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this delay.

***\*Please inform me if you are receiving  
misdelivered or duplicate copies.***

*Congressman*

**JIM**

**SENSENBRENNER**

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4909

Official Business

M.C.  
Presorted Standard



**NEWS FROM  
CONGRESS**